

A fishing license is required for spearing by both residents and nonresidents 16 years of age and over. A fishing license is not required for residents when taking fish other than game fish with a legal landing net, dip net, minnow seine or minnow dip net. A nonresident is required to have a Wisconsin nonresident fishing license when taking smelt.

Use of Spears-Restrictions

- No person, while on any water or the banks or shores of any water, may possess or control any bow, arrow, spear, (or similar device) that might be used to take, catch, or kill fish except during the specified open season.
- No person shall use this type of gear in trout streams or within 200 ft. of any fishway, lock or dam except as expressly provided. Spearing within areas posted against spearing or fishing by official signs is prohibited.
- No person shall have under his control any spear or similar device in any enclosure on the ice or waters of the Embarrass River in Shawano County from the Pella Dam downstream; the Wolf River from Shawano Dam downstream to the Fox River and on the ice of the Fox River from Johnson Creek in Green Lake County downstream through Lake Winnebago and all connecting lakes of both streams except when authorized during established sturgeon spearing seasons.
- Spearing Ice Hole Restriction: No person may cut, use, or maintain an ice hole larger than 12 inches in diameter or square for the taking of fish in any manner through the ice except spearing on Lake Superior.
- It is unlawful to use a crossbow. There may be local firearm ordinances that prohibit the use of a bow and arrow in some areas. Please check with your local law enforcement office for further information.

Bag Limits: No bag limits on rough fish.

Underwater Spear Fishing: It is lawful to take the following fish species with the use of spears and spear guns by skin and scuba diving in all waters where spearing for rough fish is permitted from sunrise to sunset during the listed spearing seasons: white bass, yellow bass (striped), rock bass, crappie, bluegill, perch, pumpkinseed (sunfish) and bullheads provided that the season for these species is also open on the same water. Daily bag limits and length restrictions also apply.

Rough Fish Spearing Season (Also Refer to Map)

It is lawful during specified open seasons for any person to take rough fish by means of spears or bow and arrow, and spear guns and spears while skin and scuba diving, sunrise to sunset only, unless otherwise specified, in the inland waters or from the shores of inland waters excluding trout streams as follows:

Continuous Season: In the counties of Adams, Columbia, Crawford, Dane, Dodge, Grant, Green, Iowa, Jefferson, Kenosha, Lafayette, Marquette, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Racine, Richland, Rock, Sauk (**except that no spearing is permitted in Devil's Lake**), Sheboygan, Vernon, Walworth, Washington, Waukesha, Waupaca and Waushara (**except during a sturgeon spearing season in any specified water**).

Saturday Nearest March 15 to but not including the Saturday Nearest May 1: Suckers and carp may be speared sunrise to sunset only, in the following trout waters in Waushara County: Willow Creek between the point where the two branches unite in Sec. 12, T18N, R11E, Town of Marion and the dam in Auroraville; Pine River between the point where the said stream crosses the highway in Sec. 3, T19N, R12E, Town of Leon to the dam in Poy Sippi and the White River below the junction of the main and west branches in SE 1/4, NE 1/4, Sec. 10, T18N, R10E, Town of Dakota, downstream to the White River flowage in Sec. 13 of Dakota township. The possession or use of a spear or similar device is prohibited at all times on all other streams containing trout.

April 21 to March 6: In the counties of Brown, Buffalo, Calumet, (**except during a sturgeon spearing season in any specified water**), Clark, Door, Dunn, Eau Claire, Florence, Fond du Lac, (**except during a sturgeon spearing season in any specified water**), Forest, Green Lake, Jackson, Juneau, Kewaunee, La Crosse, Langlade, Lincoln, Manitowoc, Marathon, (**except that spearing is prohibited in the Big Eau Pleine Flowage from the dam upstream to Highway 97 from November 1 to April 20**), Marinette, Monroe, Oconto (**in that portion of the county east of Highway 141 only**), Outagamie, (**except during a sturgeon spearing season in any specified water**), Pepin, Portage, St. Croix, Shawano, Trempealeau, Winnebago (**except during a sturgeon spearing season in any specified water**), and Wood.

Report Hunting and Fishing Violations
Call 1-800-TIP-WDNR (847-9367)
Toll Free • Statewide • 24-Hour • Confidential
(General Information NOT provided from this number)

Saturday Nearest May 20 to November 1: In Burnett, Chippewa, Douglas, Rusk, Taylor, Washburn, Polk and Barron Counties inland waters. **Burbot, but no other species, may also be speared sunset to sunrise in the Amnicon and Nemadji Rivers and the Black River upstream to the Soo Line Bridge from December 15 to January 31 in Douglas County and the Bad River, Ashland County.**

Saturday nearest May 20 to July 1: Rough fish may be taken with bow and arrow in Iron and Sawyer Counties and in Fish Creek Slough (Bayfield Co.) from its mouth to the junction of North and South Fish Creeks.

Waters Closed to Spearing: No person shall have in his possession or under his control on any of the inland waters or shores of inland waters at any time any spear or similar device that might be used for the purpose of taking, catching or killing fish in the counties of Ashland (**except in the Bad River where Burbot but no other species may be taken by means of spears from sunset to sunrise December 15 to January 31 inclusive**), Bayfield, Oconto (**in that portion of the county west of Highway 141 only**), Oneida, Pierce, Price, and Vilas Counties.

Waters Open to Night Bowfishing: Bow and arrow may be possessed and used for spearing rough fish during the open season for spearing on the following inland lakes: Castle Rock and Petenwell flowages, Adams and Juneau counties; Round and Trade lakes, Burnett County; Lake Winnebago, Calumet County; Arbutus and Mead lakes, Clark County; Lake Wisconsin, Mud Lake, and Park Lake, Columbia County; Lakes Monona, Mendota, Kegonsa, Koshkonong, and Waubesa, Dane County; Beaver Dam Lake, Chub Lake, Fox Lake, Mud Lake, Horicon Marsh, and Lake Sinnissippi, Dodge County; Eau Galle Lake, Lake Menomin, and Tainter Lake, Dunn County; Lake Winnebago, Fond du Lac County; Big Green Lake, Lake Puckaway, and Little Green Lake, Green Lake County; Ludden Lake, Iowa County; Lake Koshkonong, Jefferson County; Lake Neshonoc, La Crosse County; Yellowstone Lake, Lafayette County; Big Eau Pleine Flowage, Lake DuBay, and McMillan Reservoir, Marathon County; Buffalo Lake and Grand River Marsh, Marquette County; Cedar and Wappogasset lakes, Polk County; Wisconsin River Flowage and Lake DuBay, Portage County; Tichigan and Wind lakes, Racine County; Lake Koshkonong, Rock County; Potato Lake, Rusk County; Cedar Lake, St. Croix County; Lake Wisconsin, Sauk County; Shawano Lake, Shawano County; Delavan, Como, and Geneva lakes, Walworth County; Big Muskego Lake and Lac LaBelle, Waukesha County; Lake Poygan, Waushara County, Lakes Butte des Morts, Poygan, Winnebago, Winneconne, and Rush Lake, Winnebago County.

Boundary and Outlying Waters

Wisconsin/Minnesota and Wisconsin/Iowa Boundary Waters: It is unlawful for any person to use a spear or bow and arrow in any manner at any time for the purpose of taking, catching or killing any gamefish of any variety, or to have in possession or under control any fish spear or spring gaff in a fish house (shanty).

Rough fish may be taken by means of spears or bow and arrow in the daytime only during the open season (Wisconsin/Minnesota boundary waters: Saturday nearest April 21 to March 1; Wisconsin/Iowa boundary waters: Continuous open season). Cast nets no larger than 7 feet in diameter or mesh of more than 1/2" stretch measure may be used to take minnows.

Wisconsin/Michigan Boundary Waters: It is unlawful for any person to have in his possession or under his control on any Wisconsin/Michigan boundary water any spear, similar device or bow and arrow that might be used to take, catch or kill fish.

Outlying Waters: It is unlawful to spear any species or variety of fish in the outlying waters at any time, **except that rough fish may be speared from sunrise to sunset in all outlying waters, and may be taken with spear guns by the methods known as skin and scuba diving by divers in Lake Michigan. Northern pike may be speared through the ice in Lake Superior.**

General Net Restrictions

It is unlawful:

- To take any fish, other than smelt, from Lake Superior, its bays and tributaries, the St. Louis River, and the Montreal River downstream from the Superior Falls dam with traps and nets.
- To have in possession at any time any kind of net or nets or fish trap except minnow nets and traps, whitefish and cisco nets, dip nets (from sunrise to sunset only), crab traps and turtle traps in the following counties: **Adams, Barron, Burnett, Calumet, Chippewa, Clark, Columbia, Dane, Dodge, Dunn, Eau Claire, Florence, Fond du Lac, Forest, Green, Green Lake, Iowa, Jackson, Jefferson, Juneau, Lafayette, Langlade, Lincoln, Marathon, Marquette, Monroe, Oneida, Outagamie, Polk, Portage, Price, Richland, Rock, Rusk, Sauk, Sawyer, Shawano, Taylor, Vilas, Walworth, Washburn, Washington, Waukesha, Waupaca, Waushara, Winnebago, and Wood** or to have in possession or under control any basket traps (slat nets), trammel nets, or wooden traps in **Buffalo, Burnett, La Crosse, Pepin, Pierce, Polk, St. Croix, Trempealeau** and **Vernon** (Minnesota boundary waters).
- To fish with hook and line while using a dip net for rough fish or from any boat which has a dip net attached.
- To have in possession any threatened or endangered species without a permit from the department. These include, but are not limited to, some species of fish, frogs, clams and turtles. See <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/er/> for listed species information.
- To fish in any manner other than hook and line within 200 ft. of any fishway, lock or dam at any time.
- To fish by any method within 500 feet of any DNR fish net or weir when area is posted by the DNR.

Nets for Smelt

No smelt taken by nonresidents shall be sold, traded or bartered in any manner.

It is unlawful to leave dip nets or seines unattended within 25 feet of the edge of waters inhabited by smelt.

Frame dip nets not exceeding 8 feet in diameter or 8 feet square may be used all year for taking smelt in Lake Michigan and all the streams flowing into Lake Michigan and Green Bay beginning at the lake or bay and extending upstream to 500 feet below the first dam. They may be used 5 miles inland from the mouth on streams which have no dam except the Fox River in **Brown County** from 500 feet below the dam at De Pere.

Seines not more than 75 feet in length and not more than 6 feet in depth may be used for taking smelt from April 1 to May 25 in most outlying waters except that portion of the Fox River in Brown County from 1,500 feet below the dam in the city of De Pere. Seines of this dimension may also be used for taking smelt in St. Louis Bay, Superior Bay, Allouez Bay and from the mouth of the St. Louis River upstream to the north 28th St. landing in **Douglas County**.

Frame dip nets not exceeding 8 feet in diameter or 8 feet square may be used from April 1 to May 25 for taking smelt in Lake Superior and all streams flowing into Lake Superior in **Ashland, Bayfield, and Iron counties** and the Brule River in **Douglas County**, from the mouth of each stream, inland for one-half mile in a straight line. Zoning does not apply on Bear Creek, Bluff Creek, the Nemadji River, the St. Louis River and the other nontrout streams in **Douglas County**, and in the waters of the Chippewa, Bad and White Rivers in **Ashland County** not inhabited by trout or on streams where active sea lamprey control structures are located.

Dip nets not exceeding 8 feet in diameter or 8 feet square may be used to take smelt in Lake Lucerne, **Forest County**; the Flambeau lake chain, **Vilas County**, including thoroughfares and tributary streams 200 feet upstream and downstream from the lake basins. The open and closed seasons shall be at the directive of the Regional Director.

Nets for Whitefish and Cisco

Frame dip nets not more than 8 feet in diameter or 8 feet square may be used by state residents to take whitefish and cisco in inland waters (except Lake Lucerne in **Forest County**) from the Saturday nearest October 10 to February 1. The possession limit of whitefish or cisco so taken is 25 pounds and 1 fish in aggregate.

Only dip nets may be used to take whitefish and cisco from Keyes Lake in **Florence County** from the Saturday nearest October 10 to January 15 with a daily bag limit of 3 fish.

Seines not to exceed 75 feet in length and a depth not greater than 6 feet and with a mesh not to exceed 2 inches stretch measure may be used by state residents to take whitefish and cisco in inland waters (except Lake Lucerne in **Forest County**) from the Saturday nearest October 10 to February 1. The possession limit of whitefish or cisco is 25 pounds and 1 fish in aggregate. Trout Lake in **Vilas County**: There is a bag limit of 10 fish in total.

Dip Nets for Rough Fish

There is no bag or possession for rough fish taken by dipnetting but no suckers shall be sold or bartered in any manner.

No person, while operating a dip net for rough fish, shall fish for fish in any other manner at that time and no person shall fish with hook and line from any boat that has a dip net attached. Only one dip net per person is permitted to take smelt and minnows. **Such dip nets must be attended at all times while in use and such nets shall only be raised and lowered vertically when fishing.**

Frame Dip Nets: Frame dip nets for rough fish shall not exceed 8 feet in diameter or 8 feet square unless otherwise specified. One frame dip net per person may be used all year to take rough fish at any time in **Marinette and Oconto counties** in all streams flowing into Green Bay from a point 200 feet upstream from the mouth and extending 15 miles inland in a straight line, except in the Menominee River where dip nets for rough fish and smelt may be used at any time from April 1 to May 14. It shall be unlawful to use any dip net in that part of the Menominee River beginning at the upstream side of the Hattie Street Bridge in Marinette and extending upstream to the first dam and within 200 feet below all other dams. Frame dip nets used in Menominee River shall not exceed 9 feet square or 9 feet in diameter, making a bag when lifted not more than 4 feet deep.

One frame dip net per person may be used all year to take rough fish in all the nondesignated trout streams and rivers, excluding lakes, flowing into Lake Michigan and Green Bay in the counties of **Brown, Door, Kenosha, Kewaunee, Manitowoc, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Racine and Sheboygan** in that part of each such stream or river beginning at the mouth and extending upstream to a point 500 feet below the first dam located on such stream or river.

One frame dip net per person may be used sunrise to sunset, from May 1 to March 15, to take rough fish except suckers, in that part of the Fond du Lac River in **Fond du Lac County** beginning at its mouth and extending upstream 3 miles.

One frame dip net per person may be used from April 25 to May 31 for the removal of rough fish from that part of Lake Winnebago within a distance of 500 feet from the shoreline of **Calumet County**.

The use of dip nets not more than 2 feet in diameter or 2 feet square to take rough fish in the St. Croix River downstream to the St. Croix Falls Dam, **Polk County** is permitted from the Saturday nearest May 15 to June 30.

Except in Lake Superior, its bays and tributaries, one dip net not exceeding 8 feet in diameter or 8 feet square may be used in all other inland and outlying waters except designated trout streams at any time of the year, sunrise to sunset, to take rough fish with no bag or possession limit.

Nets and Traps for Minnows:

It is illegal for anyone to possess more than 600 minnows except licensed bait dealers and residents younger than 16 years. It is also illegal for nonresidents to sell minnows, crayfish, or frogs as bait. Residents more than 16 years old must have a bait dealer's license to sell minnows, crayfish, or frogs for bait. Residents under 16 years can possess no more than 5,000 of each species and can sell less than \$500 worth annually without a bait dealer's license. NO minnow species may be netted or trapped in Lake Superior and its tributaries, or tributaries to Lake Michigan and Green Bay upstream to the first dam or lake. Unless you have a permit from the DNR, you may not use minnow seines or minnow dip nets of any type or description in inland trout streams or tributary spring ponds. During the open trout season, people who do not possess a bait dealer's license can't use more than three minnow traps to remove minnows from trout streams.

Bait minnows may be taken, where allowed, by the following methods only:

- Hook and line.
- With seines no more than 35 feet long with a mesh no larger than one-half inch stretch measure in inland waters. Fifty-foot lengths of seine may be used in Minnesota and Iowa boundary waters.
- With dip nets no more than eight feet in diameter or square.
- With traps no more than 24 inches long and 16 inches in diameter or square with a throat measuring one-and-a-half inches or less. All traps must bear their owner's name and address and be emptied at least once every 48 hours. On Minnesota and Iowa boundary waters, minnows must be removed from traps at least once a day from one hour before sunrise to one hour after sunset.

A Fishing or Small Game License is required to take the following species:

Frogs

The open season for taking frogs is from the Saturday nearest May 1 to December 31.

There is no open season for bullfrogs in **Jefferson County**.

It is unlawful to take frogs by firearms.

All frogs taken legally may be held, purchased, and sold during the closed season.

Crayfish

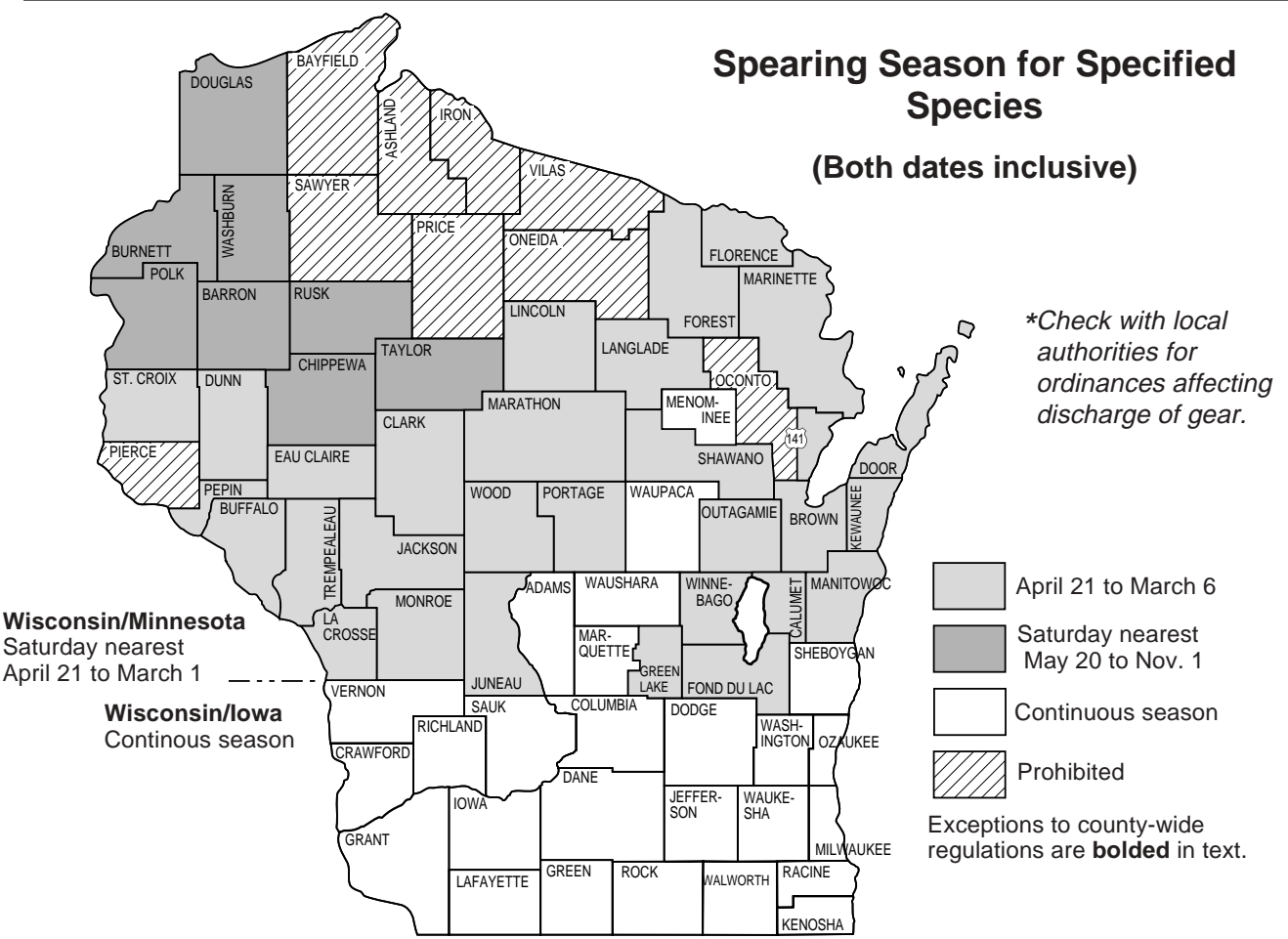
- No person may possess live crayfish and angling equipment simultaneously on any inland water except the Mississippi River.
- No person may place, deposit, throw or otherwise introduce live crayfish or crabs into any water of the state unless a permit authorizing introduction has been issued.
- Crayfish traps placed in trout streams shall conform to the dimensions of minnow traps. See **Nets and Traps for Minnows** (above)

There is no closed season on crayfish except on the **Wisconsin/Minnesota boundary waters** where the open season is from May 1 to the following March 1, both dates inclusive.

Crayfish scoops may be used in the **Wisconsin/Minnesota boundary waters** provided the scoops do not exceed 4 feet in length, 3 feet in width and 18 inches in depth attached to a handle not to exceed 4 feet in length.

Crayfish may be taken in all waters by the following means only: By hand, by use of minnow seines and minnow

continued on back



Crayfish *continued*

dip nets, where the same are permitted for the taking of minnows, and by crayfish traps (other than in trout streams) with the entrance to the trap not to exceed 2-1/2 inches at the greatest diagonal measurement. Traps must bear the name and address of the owner and must be raised and emptied at least once each day following the day set.

Only parts of fish or fish by-products including fish meal or prepared parts of such fish may be used for bait.

Floats or markers used to locate traps may not exceed 5 inches in size and may not extend more than 4 inches above the water surface and be of a color other than orange or fluorescent coloration.

Turtles

All residents and non-residents who collect, attempt to collect, or possess native Wisconsin aquatic turtles must possess one of the following resident or non-resident licenses: Fishing, Small Game, Sports, Conservation Patron, Setline*, or Set or Bank Pole*. Existing Senior Citizen Recreational Cards also qualify. In addition to the licenses listed above, residents holding a Commercial Fishing License may harvest turtles on Mississippi River Boundary Waters. (* These licenses are available only to residents). Some species are protected and may not be harvested.

These regulations apply to native Wisconsin turtle species, regardless of their origin.

The open turtle season runs from July 15 through November 30. Turtles or turtle eggs may not be taken during the closed season. Ornate Box, Wood, and Blanding's turtles may not be taken or possessed without an Endangered Species permit. Persons may collect or possess up to 5 individuals of each species with the following exceptions:

- The possession limit for snapping turtles and softshell turtles is 3 statewide. The one exception is the Mississippi River, where the possession limit is 10 for snapping turtles and 5 for softshell turtles.

Species	WI-IA/WI-MN Boundary Waters	Inland Waters
Snapping	10	3
Softshell	5	3
Others	5	5

- Licensed bait dealers and registered fish farmers may possess more than 5 specimens of any unprotected amphibian species which are collected or possessed as part of a bait collection or shipment.

- It is illegal to sell native amphibians and reptiles, except:
 - Eastern tiger salamanders, mudpuppies, and northern leopard frogs collected in state may be sold in state to education and research institutions*.

- Native amphibians and reptiles collected outside the state may be sold out of state*

- Legally harvested dead turtles and their parts may be sold during the open season.

*Note: A Class A Captive Wild Animal Farm License is required to sell under the above exceptions.

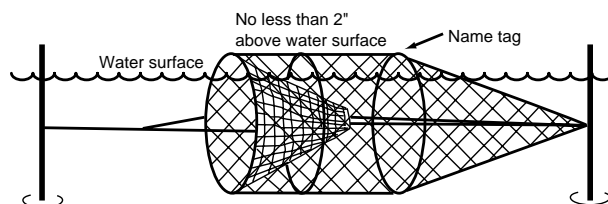
Snapping turtle size limits are a 12-inch minimum and a 16-inch maximum carapace (top shell) length.

There are no size limits for other turtles.

- Turtles may be taken by hand, dip net, hook and line, set line, set or bank poles, hooking, or hoop net trap (see allowed design). No other trap types are allowed.
- Turtles may not be taken by hook and line from trout streams during the closed trout season.
- The number of hoop traps that can be operated are 10 in Iowa-Wisconsin or Minnesota-Wisconsin boundary waters and 3 in all other waters of the state.

Hoop net trap specifications: Traps must be made of stretchable fabric (e.g., nylon) and must have a minimum mesh stretch of 6 inches. No wire mesh is allowed. Each trap must have a metal tag showing the name and address of the operator attached, and must be visible above the water's surface. The operator identified on the trap tag is the only person authorized to tend these traps. Traps must be set with the hoops exposed a minimum of 2 inches above the water's surface. Turtle traps must be checked and the entrapped contents removed at least once each day after the day they are set in all waters.

Single Entrance Hoop Trap



The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources provides equal opportunity in its employment, programs, services and functions under an Affirmative Action Plan. If you have any questions, please write to Equal Opportunity Office, Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240.

This publication is available in alternate format (large print, Braille, audio tape, etc.) upon request. Call 608-267-7498 for more information.

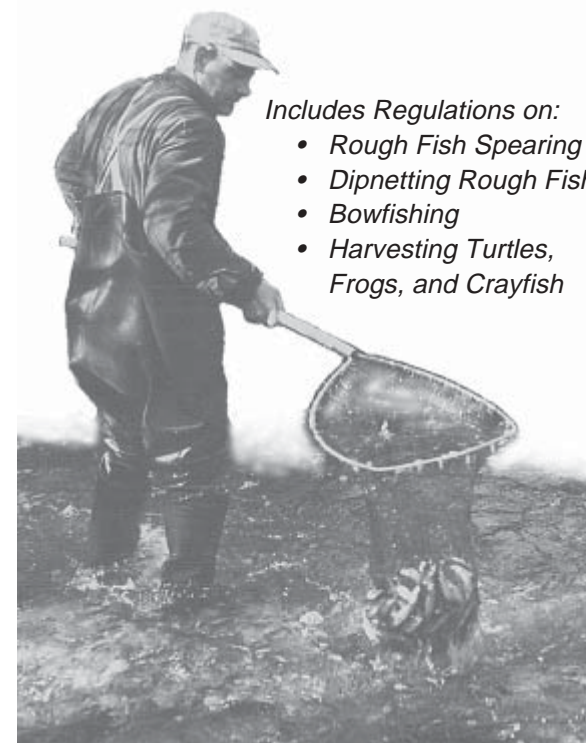


Printed on
Recycled Paper

WISCONSIN

2005-2006

Spearing & Netting Regulations



Includes Regulations on:

- Rough Fish Spearing
- Dipnetting Rough Fish
- Bowfishing
- Harvesting Turtles, Frogs, and Crayfish



Wisconsin Department
of Natural Resources
Bureau of Fisheries Management
and Habitat Protection
P.O. Box 7921
Madison, WI 53707

PUB-FH-304-2005